

life from one end of Canada to the other. The time is come when the people will stand it no longer. I mean business and I trust that every other member of the Government will see it in the same light."

Independent of the special Civil Service there are under the present Union Government as under the late Tory Government appointments to all sorts of public service—one of the crying crimes of Sir Robert Borden's Government has been the absorption of practically all of these for political followers of the Government, marking the whole work of Canada for and in the war one-sided and partizan. The Union Government is continuing in the same course. The appointments of Mr. A. N. McLean as Controller of Mounted Police, Mr. Boyce on the Railway Board, the above referred to members of the Civil Service Commission, Mr. Brabazon, Mr. M. E. Nicholl, and the Commission for the rebuilding of Halifax, etc., etc.

In the last case Mr. Fowke, an old Liberal, has been appointed but he was and is a supporter of the Union Government and though a very respectable honourable man, it cannot be claimed that he has any outstanding qualifications for that work beyond his energy in the last election in support of the Union Government.

Two other flagrant cases of partizan appointments made since February 5th, 1918, Mr. Andrew G. Acres, for years Secretary of the Ottawa Conservative Association and in the last general election organizer for the Conservative candidates, Messrs. Fripp and Chabot. It is true, Mr. Acres donned the King's uniform as paymaster in the 77th regiment, but never got past England, and has been in Ottawa for months looking after his own private interests and incidentally helping in winning the elections.

The other partizan appointment is that of Mr. A. H. Musgrove, Conservative M.P.P., for North Huron, as postmaster of Wingham, Ont.

It is the old story. Reward for political support. The loud appeal for support during the election on the ground of radical reform in this respect is forgotten as soon as a further lease of power is assured.

As a matter of administration, this is bad enough and is to be deplored but there is a wider and more serious aspect of the case to be considered. Is it a practice to be condoned when public men make pledges to the people and then ignore them? As long as office seekers can do this with impunity, men of low political morality will do it, and it is only when they find they are punished for it that they will cease.

In the new Parliament is a large number of members new to the House, men who have ideals of duty and responsibility to their electors and regard for pledges. It is for these men regardless of party affiliations to enforce these views. Now and in this particular case is a test of them and it will indeed be a poor augury for the future public life of Canada if they submit to the continuance of party Patronage and disregard of pre-election pledges.

## "LIBERALS AND LAURIERITES"

(From the London Advertiser, Jan. 24, 1918)

THEY must not be called Liberals; they must be called Laurierites," is the effect of a dictatorial article appearing in a Unionist paper. The real Liberals, we are told, are those who joined forces with Borden, White, Flavelle & Co., and by means of the war franchise act and a controlled system of "enumeration" secured power in the recent election.

Liberalism by whatever name it may be called is an imperishable thing. Its history has been to be beaten down, bruised and broken, and to arise again. Liberalism spoke with the voice of many men in England. Cromwell arose from the ruins of a bullied democracy to assert the essential zeal for freedom of British people. In Canada, a campaign of studied publicity may lead the people to call the Opposition which will assemble in March by the name of Laurierites. But what does it matter. The men toward whom his name is cast as bearing some strain of dishonor, will bear the name proudly. They are branded as the followers of a good man, a true man, a man who has stood with his head above the clouds of political deceit, a man who will be given his rightful place as a great Britisher ere many months have passed, a man who has been for the welding of the Empire and the Dominion, not by edict or dogma nor the stacked cards that any party in power may arrange, but by calm, reasoned, high-minded regard for the essential justice of the spirit that controls the Empire.

Liberalism as a political party may be anything, but Liberalism as a principle is undying. As a party it has attracted in the past men who were willing to bear the attacks of class-entrenched rulers in order that a people might finally win to freedom. These men formed into organizations, local, provincial and Dominion-wide. From each riding men were selected to attend conventions for the choosing of leaders. The system led back to the rank and file of the party in theory; it was unfortunately often left to a few men to name the men who should lead. These organizations of Liberals will continue to name men for the conventions. The conventions will choose the leaders. Insurgency may form itself into a separate party, but the will of the majority will decide. Who shall lead in the Dominion, who shall lead in the province, will be questions for the delegates. The voice of Liberalism will be heard in no uncertain tones. Those who arrogate to themselves the right to decide who shall be called Liberals, who shall control the fortunes of the party, who shall lead and who shall follow may discover that the matter does not lie within the powers of decision of any newspapers or any clique. When the time has come for the calling of these conventions, the real Liberals of the land will be heard. They will make it known whether Laurier is a Liberal or whether Rowell or some other is to be the chieftain. And it will be well for the Liberal party, whatever that may be, when the rank and file have been summoned, to say who shall have the right to bear a name and who shall have the right to choose a leader.